GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1671
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2000
C.T.B.T.
VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of C.T.B.T.;

(b) the names of the countries which have signed C.T.B.T.;

(c) the names of the country which have not signed the C.T.B.T.; and

(d) the policy of the Union Government regarding C.T.B.T.?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) consists of a Preamble, 17 articles, an annex containing a list of States grouped by region, a list of States in relation to the entry-into-force provision (Article XIV) and a Protocol. The Preamble of the treaty reiterates the `ultimate goal of eliminating of those (nuclear) weapons, and of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control`, and recognises that the CTBT would constrain the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons. Article I contains the basic obligation of the treaty not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion. Article II provides for the establishment of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) at Vienna consisting of a Conference of States Parties, a 51-member Executive Council (EC), a Technical Secretariat, including the International Data Center and the International Monitoring System. Article III requires a State Party to take necessary measures to implement its obligations under the CTBT and designate a National Authority for interaction with the CTBTO and other States Parties. Article IV describes the verification regime consisting of the International Monitoring System with networks of seismic, radio-nuclide, infrasound and hydroacoustic monitoring stations, non-mandatory consultation and clarification, on-site inspections and confidence building measures. On-site inspections need to be approved by 30 affirmative votes in the EC. Article V provides for measures to ensure compliance with the treaty and redress a situation that contravenes its provisions by the Conference of States Parties undertaking collective measures and/or making a reference to the UN. Article VI and Article VII deal with settlement of disputes and amendments respectively while Article VIII provides for a review conference every 10 years. Article IX provides that the treaty is of unlimited duration. A State Party can withdraw from the treaty by giving a six month notice including a statement of events that have led to the decision of withdrawal because its supreme interests have been jeopardised. Article X-XII relate to the status of the Annexes, signature, ratification and accession. Article XIV provides that the treaty shall enter into force 180 days after the deposit of the instruments of ratification by all 44 countries listed in Annex 2 to the treaty. It also provides for the convening of a Conference of States that have deposited their instruments of ratification if the treaty is not in force `three years after the date of the anniversary of its opening for signature`. Article XV provides that the treaty articles are not subject to reservations and Articles XVI-XVII relate to the authentic texts and designate the UN Secretary General as the Depository. A Protocol is annexed to the treaty and provides details of the International Monitoring System, functions of the International Data Centre, conduct of on-site inspections, confidence building measures and the lists of monitoring stations.

(b) As of date 160 countries have signed the CTBT (list enclosed).

(c) 33 countries have not signed the CTBT (list enclosed).

(d) The Government`s position on the CTBT was articulated by PM on December 15, 1998 in Parliament. By observing the moratorium, we meet the basic obligation of the CTBT. 160 countries are, as at present, signatories to the CTBT, including many who have supported and continue to support India`s disarmament initiatives, as well as those with whom India has strategic dialogues. The priority of the country`s national security concerns having been addressed, the Government believes that it is also necessary to convey reassurance to the international community.